CHAPTER 145

PUBLIC HEALTH PROVISIONS

145.425 PAY TOILETS IN PUBLIC PLACES; PROHIBITIONS; PENALTY.

Pay toilets and urinals in public places, public conveyances or public buildings are prohibited.

History: *2001 c 205 art 2 s 1*

145.56 SUICIDE PREVENTION.

Subdivision 1. **Suicide prevention plan.** The commissioner of health shall refine, coordinate, and implement the state's suicide prevention plan using an evidence-based, public health approach focused on prevention, in collaboration with the commissioner of human services; the commissioner of public safety; the commissioner of children, families, and learning; and appropriate agencies, organizations, and institutions in the community.

Subd. 2. **Community-based programs.** (a) The commissioner shall establish a grant program to fund:

(1) community-based programs to provide education, outreach, and advocacy services to populations who may be at risk for suicide;

(2) community-based programs that educate community helpers and gatekeepers, such as family members, spiritual leaders, coaches, and business owners, employers, and coworkers on how to prevent suicide by encouraging help-seeking behaviors;

(3) community-based programs that educate populations at risk for suicide and community helpers and gatekeepers that must include information on the symptoms of depression and other psychiatric illnesses, the warning signs of suicide, skills for preventing suicides, and making or seeking effective referrals to intervention and community resources; and

(4) community-based programs to provide evidence-based suicide prevention and intervention education to school staff, parents, and students in grades kindergarten through 12.

Subd. 3. **Workplace and professional education.** (a) The commissioner shall promote the use of employee assistance and workplace programs to support employees with depression and other psychiatric illnesses and substance abuse disorders, and refer them to services. In promoting these programs, the commissioner shall collaborate with employer and professional associations, unions, and safety councils.

(b) The commissioner shall provide training and technical assistance to local public health and other community-based professionals to provide for integrated implementation of best practices for preventing suicides.

Subd. 4. **Collection and reporting suicide data.** The commissioner shall coordinate with federal, regional, local, and other state agencies to collect, analyze, and annually issue a public report on Minnesota-specific data on suicide and suicidal behaviors.

Subd. 5. **Periodic evaluations; biennial reports.** The commissioner shall conduct periodic evaluations of the impact of and outcomes from implementation of the state's suicide prevention plan and each of the activities specified in this section. By July 1, 2002, and July 1 of each even-numbered year thereafter, the commissioner shall report

the results of these evaluations to the chairs of the policy and finance committees in the house and senate with jurisdiction over health and human services issues.

History: *1Sp2001 c 9 art 1 s 45*

145.61 DEFINITIONS.

[For text of subds 1 to 4c, see M.S.2000]

Subd. 5. **Review organization.** "Review organization" means a nonprofit organization acting according to clause (l), a committee as defined under section 144E.32, subdivision 2, or a committee whose membership is limited to professionals, administrative staff, and consumer directors, except where otherwise provided for by state or federal law, and which is established by one or more of the following: a hospital, a clinic, a nursing home, an ambulance service or first responder service regulated under chapter 144E, one or more state or local associations of professionals, an organization of professionals from a particular area or medical institution, a health maintenance organization as defined in chapter 62D, a community integrated service network as defined in chapter 62N, a nonprofit health service plan corporation as defined in chapter 62C, a preferred provider organization, a professional standards review organization established pursuant to United States Code, title 42, section 1320c-1 et seq., a medical review agent established to meet the requirements of section 256B.04, subdivision 15, or 256D.03, subdivision 7, paragraph (b), the department of human services, or a nonprofit corporation that owns, operates, or is established by one or more of the above referenced entities, to gather and review information relating to the care and treatment of patients for the purposes of:

(a) evaluating and improving the quality of health care;

(b) reducing morbidity or mortality;

(c) obtaining and disseminating statistics and information relative to the treatment and prevention of diseases, illness and injuries;

(d) developing and publishing guidelines showing the norms of health care in the area or medical institution or in the entity or organization that established the review organization;

(e) developing and publishing guidelines designed to keep within reasonable bounds the cost of health care;

(f) developing and publishing guidelines designed to improve the safety of care provided to individuals;

(g) reviewing the safety, quality, or cost of health care services provided to enrollees of health maintenance organizations, community integrated service networks, health service plans, preferred provider organizations, and insurance companies;

(h) acting as a professional standards review organization pursuant to United States Code, title 42, section 1320c-1 et seq.;

(i) determining whether a professional shall be granted staff privileges in a medical institution, membership in a state or local association of professionals, or participating status in a nonprofit health service plan corporation, health maintenance organization, community integrated service network, preferred provider organization, or insurance company, or whether a professional's staff privileges, membership, or participation status should be limited, suspended or revoked;

(j) reviewing, ruling on, or advising on controversies, disputes or questions between:

(1) health insurance carriers, nonprofit health service plan corporations, health maintenance organizations, community integrated service networks, self-insurers and their insureds, subscribers, enrollees, or other covered persons;

(2) professional licensing boards and health providers licensed by them;

(3) professionals and their patients concerning diagnosis, treatment or care, or the charges or fees therefor;

(4) professionals and health insurance carriers, nonprofit health service plan corporations, health maintenance organizations, community integrated service networks, or self-insurers concerning a charge or fee for health care services provided to an insured, subscriber, enrollee, or other covered person;

(5) professionals or their patients and the federal, state, or local government, or agencies thereof;

(k) providing underwriting assistance in connection with professional liability insurance coverage applied for or obtained by dentists, or providing assistance to underwriters in evaluating claims against dentists;

(l) acting as a medical review agent under section 256B.04, subdivision 15, or 256D.03, subdivision 7, paragraph (b);

(m) providing recommendations on the medical necessity of a health service, or the relevant prevailing community standard for a health service;

(n) providing quality assurance as required by United States Code, title 42, sections 1396r(b)(1)(b) and 1395i-3(b)(1)(b) of the Social Security Act;

(o) providing information to group purchasers of health care services when that information was originally generated within the review organization for a purpose specified by this subdivision;

(p) providing information to other, affiliated or nonaffiliated review organizations, when that information was originally generated within the review organization for a purpose specified by this subdivision, and as long as that information will further the purposes of a review organization as specified by this subdivision; or

(q) participating in a standardized incident reporting system, including Internet-based applications, to share information for the purpose of identifying and analyzing trends in medical error and iatrogenic injury.

History: *2001 c 7 s 33; 2001 c 120 s 1*

145.64 CONFIDENTIALITY OF RECORDS OF REVIEW ORGANIZATION.

Subdivision 1. **Data and information.** (a) Except as provided in subdivision 4, data and information acquired by a review organization, in the exercise of its duties and functions, or by an individual or other entity acting at the direction of a review organization, shall be held in confidence, shall not be disclosed to anyone except to the extent necessary to carry out one or more of the purposes of the review organization, and shall not be subject to subpoena or discovery. No person described in section 145.63 shall disclose what transpired at a meeting of a review organization except to the extent necessary to carry out one or more of the purposes of a review organization. The proceedings and records of a review organization shall not be subject to discovery or introduction into evidence in any civil action against a professional arising out of the matter or matters which are the subject of consideration by the review organization. Information, documents or records otherwise available from original sources shall not be immune from discovery or use in any civil action merely because they were presented during proceedings of a review organization, nor shall any person who testified before a review organization or who is a member of it be prevented from testifying as to matters within the person's knowledge, but a witness cannot be asked about the witness' testimony before a review organization or opinions formed by the witness as a result of its hearings. For purposes of this subdivision, records of a review organization include Internet-based data derived from data shared for the purposes of the standardized incident reporting system described in section 145.61, subdivision 5, clause (q).

(b) Notwithstanding paragraph (a), a review organization may release nonpatient-identified aggregate trend data on medical error and iatrogenic injury without violating this section or being subjected to a penalty under section 145.66 and without compromising the protections provided under sections 145.61 to 145.67 to the reporter of such information; to the review organization, its sponsoring organizations, and members; and to the underlying data and reports.

(c) The confidentiality protection and protection from discovery or introduction into evidence provided in this subdivision shall also apply to the governing body of the review organization and shall not be waived as a result of referral of a matter from the review organization to the governing body or consideration by the governing body of decisions, recommendations, or documentation of the review organization.

(d) The governing body of a hospital, health maintenance organization, or community integrated service network, that is owned or operated by a governmental entity, may close a meeting to discuss decisions, recommendations, deliberations, or documentation of the review organization. A meeting may not be closed except by a majority vote of the governing body in a public meeting. The closed meeting must be tape recorded and the tape must be retained by the governing body for five years.

[For text of subds 2 and 3, see M.S.2000]

Subd. 4. **Standardized incident reporting system data.** A review organization that is participating in a standardized incident reporting system described in section 145.61, subdivision 5, clause (q), may release data for purposes of the reporting system, provided that the data do not identify an individual and are not released in a manner in which an individual can be identified.

Subd. 5. **Commissioner of health.** Nothing in this section shall be construed to prohibit or restrict the right of the commissioner of health to access the original information, documents, or records acquired by a review organization as permitted by law.

History: *2001 c 120 s 2-4*

145.881 MATERNAL AND CHILD HEALTH ADVISORY TASK FORCE.

[For text of subd 1, see M.S.2000]

Subd. 2. **Duties.** The advisory task force shall meet on a regular basis to perform the following duties:

(a) review and report on the health care needs of mothers and children throughout the state of Minnesota;

(b) review and report on the type, frequency and impact of maternal and child health care services provided to mothers and children under existing maternal and child health care programs, including programs administered by the commissioner of health;

(c) establish, review, and report to the commissioner a list of program guidelines and criteria which the advisory task force considers essential to providing an effective maternal and child health care program to low income populations and high risk persons and fulfilling the purposes defined in section 145.88;

(d) review staff recommendations of the department of health regarding maternal and child health grant awards before the awards are made;

(e) make recommendations to the commissioner for the use of other federal and state funds available to meet maternal and child health needs;

(f) make recommendations to the commissioner of health on priorities for funding the following maternal and child health services: (1) prenatal, delivery and postpartum care, (2) comprehensive health care for children, especially from birth through five years of age, (3) adolescent health services, (4) family planning services, (5) preventive dental care, (6) special services for chronically ill and handicapped children and (7) any other services which promote the health of mothers and children;

(g) make recommendations to the commissioner of health on the process to distribute, award and administer the maternal and child health block grant funds; and

(h) review the measures that are used to define the variables of the funding distribution formula in section 145.882, subdivision 4, every two years and make recommendations to the commissioner of health for changes based upon principles established by the advisory task force for this purpose.

History: *1Sp2001 c 9 art 1 s 46*

145.90 [Repealed, 2001 c 211 s 4]

145.901 MATERNAL DEATH STUDIES.

Subdivision 1. **Purpose.** The commissioner of health may conduct maternal death studies to assist the planning, implementation, and evaluation of medical, health, and welfare service systems and to reduce the numbers of preventable maternal deaths in Minnesota.

Subd. 2. **Access to data.** (a) The commissioner of health has access to medical data as defined in section 13.384, subdivision 1, paragraph (b), medical examiner data as defined in section 13.83, subdivision 1, and health records created, maintained, or stored by providers as defined in section 144.335, subdivision 1, paragraph (b), without the consent of the subject of the data, and without the consent of the parent, spouse, other guardian, or legal representative of the subject of the data, when the subject of the data is a woman who died during a pregnancy or within 12 months of a fetal death, a live birth, or other termination of a pregnancy.

The commissioner has access only to medical data and health records related to deaths that occur on or after July 1, 2000.

(b) The provider or responsible authority that creates, maintains, or stores the data shall furnish the data upon the request of the commissioner. The provider or responsible authority may charge a fee for providing the data, not to exceed the actual cost of retrieving and duplicating the data.

(c) The commissioner shall make a good faith reasonable effort to notify the parent, spouse, other guardian, or legal representative of the subject of the data before collecting data on the subject. For purposes of this paragraph, "reasonable effort" means one notice is sent by certified mail to the last known address of the parent, spouse, guardian, or legal representative informing the recipient of the data collection and offering a public health nurse support visit if desired.

(d) The commissioner does not have access to coroner or medical examiner data that are part of an active investigation as described in section 13.83.

Subd. 3. **Management of records.** After the commissioner has collected all data about a subject of a maternal death study needed to perform the study, the data from source records obtained under subdivision 2, other than data identifying the subject, must be transferred to separate records to be maintained by the commissioner. Notwithstanding section 138.17, after the data have been transferred, all source records obtained under subdivision 2 possessed by the commissioner must be destroyed.

Subd. 4. **Classification of data.** (a) Data provided to the commissioner from source records under subdivision 2, including identifying information on individual providers, data subjects, or their children, and data derived by the commissioner under subdivision 3 for the purpose of carrying out maternal death studies, are classified as confidential data on individuals or confidential data on decedents, as defined in sections 13.02, subdivision 3, and 13.10, subdivision 1, paragraph (a).

(b) Information classified under paragraph (a) shall not be subject to discovery or introduction into evidence in any administrative, civil, or criminal proceeding. Such information otherwise available from an original source shall not be immune from discovery or barred from introduction into evidence merely because it was utilized by the commissioner in carrying out maternal death studies.

(c) Summary data on maternal death studies created by the commissioner, which does not identify individual data subjects or individual providers, shall be public in accordance with section 13.05, subdivision 7.

History: *2001 c 211 s 3*

145.9245 [Repealed, 1Sp2001 c 9 art 3 s 76]

145.9268 COMMUNITY CLINIC GRANTS.

Subdivision 1. **Definition.** For purposes of this section, "eligible community clinic" means:

(1) a clinic that provides services under conditions as defined in Minnesota Rules, part 9505.0255, and utilizes a sliding fee scale to determine eligibility for charity care;

(2) an Indian tribal government or Indian health service unit; or

(3) a consortium of clinics comprised of entities under clause (1) or (2).

Subd. 2. **Grants authorized.** The commissioner of health shall award grants to eligible community clinics to improve the ongoing viability of Minnesota's clinic-based safety net providers. Grants shall be awarded to support the capacity of eligible community clinics to serve low-income populations, reduce current or future uncompensated care burdens, or provide for improved care delivery infrastructure. The commissioner shall award grants to community clinics in metropolitan and rural areas of the state, and shall ensure geographic representation in grant awards among all regions of the state.

Subd. 3. **Allocation of grants.** (a) To receive a grant under this section, an eligible community clinic must submit an application to the commissioner of health by the deadline established by the commissioner. A grant may be awarded upon the signing of a grant contract. Community clinics may apply for and the commissioner may award grants for one-year or two-year periods.

(b) An application must be on a form and contain information as specified by the commissioner but at a minimum must contain:

(1) a description of the purpose or project for which grant funds will be used;

(2) a description of the problem or problems the grant funds will be used to address; and

(3) a description of achievable objectives, a workplan, and a timeline for implementation and completion of processes or projects enabled by the grant.

(c) The commissioner shall review each application to determine whether the application is complete and whether the applicant and the project are eligible for a grant. In evaluating applications according to paragraph (d), the commissioner shall establish criteria including, but not limited to: the priority level of the project; the applicant's thoroughness and clarity in describing the problem grant funds are intended to address; a description of the applicant's proposed project; the manner in which the applicant will demonstrate the effectiveness of any projects undertaken; and evidence of efficiencies and effectiveness gained through collaborative efforts. The commissioner may also take into account other relevant factors, including, but not limited to, the percentage for which uninsured patients represent the applicant's patient base and the degree to which grant funds will be used to support services increasing access to health care services. During application review, the commissioner may request additional information about a proposed project, including information on project cost. Failure to provide the information requested disqualifies an applicant. The commissioner has discretion over the number of grants awarded.

(d) In determining which eligible community clinics will receive grants under this section, the commissioner shall give preference to those grant applications that show evidence of collaboration with other eligible community clinics, hospitals, health care providers, or community organizations. In addition, the commissioner shall give priority, in declining order, to grant applications for projects that:

(1) provide a direct offset to expenses incurred for services provided to the clinic's target population;

(2) establish, update, or improve information, data collection, or billing systems;

(3) procure, modernize, remodel, or replace equipment used in the delivery of direct patient care at a clinic;

(4) provide improvements for care delivery, such as increased translation and interpretation services; or

(5) other projects determined by the commissioner to improve the ability of applicants to provide care to the vulnerable populations they serve.

(e) A grant awarded to an eligible community clinic may not exceed $300,000 per eligible community clinic. For an applicant applying as a consortium of clinics, a grant

may not exceed $300,000 per clinic included in the consortium. The commissioner has discretion over the number of grants awarded.

Subd. 4. **Evaluation and report.** The commissioner of health shall evaluate the overall effectiveness of the grant program. The commissioner shall collect progress reports to evaluate the grant program from the eligible community clinics receiving grants. Every two years, as part of this evaluation, the commissioner shall report to the legislature on priority areas for grants set under subdivision 3 and provide any recommendations for adding or changing priority areas.

History: *1Sp2001 c 9 art 1 s 47*

145.927 [Repealed, 1Sp2001 c 9 art 1 s 62]

145.928 ELIMINATING HEALTH DISPARITIES.

Subdivision 1. **Goal; establishment.** It is the goal of the state, by 2010, to decrease by 50 percent the disparities in infant mortality rates and adult and child immunization rates for American Indians and populations of color, as compared with rates for whites. To do so and to achieve other measurable outcomes, the commissioner of health shall establish a program to close the gap in the health status of American Indians and populations of color as compared with whites in the following priority areas: infant mortality, breast and cervical cancer screening, HIV/AIDS and sexually transmitted infections, adult and child immunizations, cardiovascular disease, diabetes, and accidental injuries and violence.

Subd. 2. **State-community partnerships; plan.** The commissioner, in partnership with culturally based community organizations; the Indian affairs council under section 3.922; the council on affairs of Chicano/Latino people under section 3.9223; the council on Black Minnesotans under section 3.9225; the council on Asian-Pacific Minnesotans under section 3.9226; community health boards as defined in section 145A.02; and tribal governments, shall develop and implement a comprehensive, coordinated plan to reduce health disparities in the health disparity priority areas identified in subdivision 1.

Subd. 3. **Measurable outcomes.** The commissioner, in consultation with the community partners listed in subdivision 2, shall establish measurable outcomes to achieve the goal specified in subdivision 1 and to determine the effectiveness of the grants and other activities funded under this section in reducing health disparities in the priority areas identified in subdivision 1. The development of measurable outcomes must be completed before any funds are distributed under this section.

Subd. 4. **Statewide assessment.** The commissioner shall enhance current data tools to ensure a statewide assessment of the risk behaviors associated with the health disparity priority areas identified in subdivision 1. The statewide assessment must be used to establish a baseline to measure the effect of activities funded under this section. To the extent feasible, the commissioner shall conduct the assessment so that the results may be compared to national data.

Subd. 5. **Technical assistance.** The commissioner shall provide the necessary expertise to grant applicants to ensure that submitted proposals are likely to be successful in reducing the health disparities identified in subdivision 1. The commissioner shall provide grant recipients with guidance and training on best or most promising strategies to use to reduce the health disparities identified in subdivision 1. The commissioner shall also assist grant recipients in the development of materials and procedures to evaluate local community activities.

Subd. 6. **Process.** (a) The commissioner, in consultation with the community partners listed in subdivision 2, shall develop the criteria and procedures used to allocate grants under this section. In developing the criteria, the commissioner shall establish an administrative cost limit for grant recipients. At the time a grant is awarded, the commissioner must provide a grant recipient with information on the outcomes established according to subdivision 3.

(b) A grant recipient must coordinate its activities to reduce health disparities with other entities receiving funds under this section that are in the grant recipient's service area.

Subd. 7. **Community grant program; immunization rates and infant mortality rates.** (a) The commissioner shall award grants to eligible applicants for local or regional projects and initiatives directed at reducing health disparities in one or both of the following priority areas:

(1) decreasing racial and ethnic disparities in infant mortality rates; or

(2) increasing adult and child immunization rates in nonwhite racial and ethnic populations.

(b) The commissioner may award up to 20 percent of the funds available as planning grants. Planning grants must be used to address such areas as community assessment, coordination activities, and development of community supported strategies.

(c) Eligible applicants may include, but are not limited to, faith-based organizations, social service organizations, community nonprofit organizations, community health boards, tribal governments, and community clinics. Applicants must submit proposals to the commissioner. A proposal must specify the strategies to be implemented to address one or both of the priority areas listed in paragraph (a) and must be targeted to achieve the outcomes established according to subdivision 3.

(d) The commissioner shall give priority to applicants who demonstrate that their proposed project or initiative:

(1) is supported by the community the applicant will serve;

(2) is research-based or based on promising strategies;

(3) is designed to complement other related community activities;

(4) utilizes strategies that positively impact both priority areas;

(5) reflects racially and ethnically appropriate approaches; and

(6) will be implemented through or with community-based organizations that reflect the race or ethnicity of the population to be reached.

Subd. 8. **Community grant program; other health disparities.** (a) The commissioner shall award grants to eligible applicants for local or regional projects and initiatives directed at reducing health disparities in one or more of the following priority areas:

(1) decreasing racial and ethnic disparities in morbidity and mortality rates from breast and cervical cancer;

(2) decreasing racial and ethnic disparities in morbidity and mortality rates from HIV/AIDS and sexually transmitted infections;

(3) decreasing racial and ethnic disparities in morbidity and mortality rates from cardiovascular disease;

(4) decreasing racial and ethnic disparities in morbidity and mortality rates from diabetes; or

(5) decreasing racial and ethnic disparities in morbidity and mortality rates from accidental injuries or violence.

(b) The commissioner may award up to 20 percent of the funds available as planning grants. Planning grants must be used to address such areas as community assessment, determining community priority areas, coordination activities, and development of community supported strategies.

(c) Eligible applicants may include, but are not limited to, faith-based organizations, social service organizations, community nonprofit organizations, community health boards, and community clinics. Applicants shall submit proposals to the commissioner. A proposal must specify the strategies to be implemented to address one or more of the priority areas listed in paragraph (a) and must be targeted to achieve the outcomes established according to subdivision 3.

(d) The commissioner shall give priority to applicants who demonstrate that their proposed project or initiative:

(1) is supported by the community the applicant will serve;

(2) is research-based or based on promising strategies;

(3) is designed to complement other related community activities;

(4) utilizes strategies that positively impact more than one priority area;

(5) reflects racially and ethnically appropriate approaches; and

(6) will be implemented through or with community-based organizations that reflect the race or ethnicity of the population to be reached.

Subd. 9. **Health of foreign-born persons.** (a) The commissioner shall distribute funds to community health boards for health screening and follow-up services for tuberculosis for foreign-born persons. Funds shall be distributed based on the following formula:

(1) $1,500 per foreign-born person with pulmonary tuberculosis in the community health board's service area;

(2) $500 per foreign-born person with extrapulmonary tuberculosis in the community health board's service area;

(3) $500 per month of directly observed therapy provided by the community health board for each uninsured foreign-born person with pulmonary or extrapulmonary tuberculosis; and

(4) $50 per foreign-born person in the community health board's service area.

(b) Payments must be made at the end of each state fiscal year. The amount paid per tuberculosis case, per month of directly observed therapy, and per foreign-born person must be proportionately increased or decreased to fit the actual amount appropriated for that fiscal year.

Subd. 10. **Tribal governments.** The commissioner shall award grants to American Indian tribal governments for implementation of community interventions to reduce health disparities for the priority areas listed in subdivisions 7 and 8. A community intervention must be targeted to achieve the outcomes established according to subdivision 3. Tribal governments must submit proposals to the commissioner and must demonstrate partnerships with local public health entities. The distribution formula shall be determined by the commissioner, in consultation with the tribal governments.

Subd. 11. **Coordination.** The commissioner shall coordinate the projects and initiatives funded under this section with other efforts at the local, state, or national level to avoid duplication and promote complementary efforts.

Subd. 12. **Evaluation.** Using the outcomes established according to subdivision 3, the commissioner shall conduct a biennial evaluation of the community grant programs, community health board activities, and tribal government activities funded under this section. Grant recipients, tribal governments, and community health boards shall cooperate with the commissioner in the evaluation and shall provide the commissioner with the information needed to conduct the evaluation.

Subd. 13. **Report.** The commissioner shall submit a biennial report to the legislature on the local community projects, tribal government, and community health board prevention activities funded under this section. These reports must include information on grant recipients, activities that were conducted using grant funds, evaluation data, and outcome measures, if available. These reports are due by January 15 of every other year, beginning in the year 2003.

Subd. 14. **Supplantation of existing funds.** Funds received under this section must be used to develop new programs or expand current programs that reduce health disparities. Funds must not be used to supplant current county or tribal expenditures.

History: *1Sp2001 c 9 art 1 s 48*